

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response. Claims 1-51 are currently pending.

INTERVIEW

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for lending his valuable time to conducting an interview in connection with the present application. Applicants discussed with the Examiner allowable claims 1-4 and 5-9 and rejected independent claims 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 30, 37, 39, 41, 44, and 49. Although the Examiner indicated the belief that the subject matter of the present application did in fact distinguish over the prior art of record, it appears that the Examiner did not believe the rejected claims were clear enough to permit allowance. Accordingly, in order to further prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 30, 37, 39, 41, 44, and 49 taking into account suggestions made by the Examiner, which further clarify claims 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 30, 37, 39, 41, 44, and 49, and render the art grounds of rejection moot as agreed upon with the Examiner.

As such, Applicants submit that all claims currently pending in connection with the present application are now in condition for allowance.

Further, in light of Applicants interview with the Examiner, Applicants submit that no new issues, which require further search and/or consideration, have been introduced. Thus, Applicants request entry of this Amendment after Final.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, entry of this Amendment After Final, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

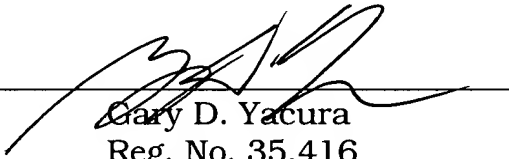
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Andrew M. Waxman, Reg. No. 56,007, at the number of the undersigned listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


Gary D. Yacura
Reg. No. 35,416

GDY/AMW:jcp



P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000